



Independent Environmental  
Monitoring Agency



March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005

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Government of the Northwest Territories, Resources, Wildlife and Economic  
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Simon Awa, Deputy Minister  
Government of Nunavut, Department of the Environment  
PO Box 1000, Station 1300  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Workshop to review cumulative effects on wildlife in the Slave Geological Province**

The Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) and the Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) are writing to express concerns about cumulative impacts on wildlife in the Slave Geological Province (SGP). Recent research has shown an apparent dramatic decrease in the Bathurst Caribou herd. Additional research suggests that development in the Slave Geological Province may be a source of pressure on the herd. As well, reports from our Aboriginal Society Members and Aboriginal Party representatives indicate concern that migration patterns and distributions of caribou, grizzlies and wolverine are changing.

For this reason, we are recommending that your government take action to begin addressing regional cumulative effects on wildlife in the SGP. We feel that there is a

need for leadership and cooperation to address coordination of data collection, analysis and reporting on this issue and that DIAND should take lead responsibility.

As a first step we propose that DIAND take the lead in hosting a workshop to discuss the issue, in the near future. We suggest that the workshop should coordinate a meeting of scientists, regulators, industry and Aboriginal parties involved in wildlife research or potentially affected by cumulative effects on wildlife in the SGP.

An objective of the workshop could be the development of a more coordinated approach to monitoring with a view to mitigating negative effects of development on wildlife, particularly to the Bathurst Caribou herd. We believe the results of the workshop could have considerable value in advancing the Cumulative Effects Assessment Management Framework (CEAMF) regional action plan for the Slave Geological Province, the West Kitikmeot Regional Land Use Plan commitments and help meet or define monitoring requirements under the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP) and the Nunavut General Monitoring Program.

One of the greatest concerns that northerners expressed when the diamond mines first opened was the impacts many mines would have on the resources that are vital to the Aboriginal Peoples. With evidence mounting that this could be occurring, we encourage you to consider our recommendation. It is important that everyone has the same understanding of what is happening and work together to address the issues.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

- ORIGINAL SIGNED BY-

Doug Crossley  
Chairperson, EMAB  
Cc: Parties to the Environmental Agreement

-ORIGINAL SIGNED BY -

William A. Ross  
Chairperson, IEMA  
Cc: Society Members